

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For more information: NDDOT Communications 701-328-4559

Distracted driving citations spiked in April

Bismarck - Eleven law enforcement agencies in North Dakota worked a total of 320 overtime hours for distracted driving prevention during the month of April. With ten of the eleven agencies reported, a total of 186 distracted driving citations were issued, and a total of 321 citations given during the enforcement period.

Officers ramped up enforcement of North Dakota's anti-texting law during a national *U Drive. U Text. U Pay.* high-visibility enforcement campaign. The effort resulted in education about the no-texting-while-driving law in North Dakota, as well as citations reminding motorists to eliminate distractions while driving. North Dakota law prohibits accessing or sending electronic data while operating a motor vehicle—even while stopped at a stoplight. The fine for texting while driving in North Dakota is \$100.

Distracted driving continues to gain national attention, supported by research that examines the effects of cell phone use as well as other distractions contributing to motor vehicle crashes. In North Dakota, more than half of licensed drivers who responded to a 2014 Traffic Safety Survey admitted they text while driving at least occasionally.

Funding for distracted driving enforcement is provided by the North Dakota Department of Transportation. Your comments about traffic safety are welcome through www.facebook.com/codefortheroad, @codefortheroad on Twitter or call 701-328-4559.